

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00020 061222Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01

SAM-01 ARA-10 AID-05 /119 W
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R 060938Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2591

INFO AMEMBASSX KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDONI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0020

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZO, ZA

SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN ZAMBIAN PRESS

1. SUNDAY TIMES JAN 4 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY STAFF
REPORTER RICHARD SAKALA, WHO RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM SILVA
PORTO, REPORTING ON RECENT UNITA "ANNUAL CONFERENCE." ACCORDING
TO SAKALA, CONFERENCE ISSUED RESOLUTIONS DENYING UNITA WAS
COOPERATING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN ANGOLA, ASKING FOR
IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA OF ALL
FOREIGN TROOPS, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA, AND CALLING FOR
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY
SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS,
CREATION OF NEUTRAL FORCES TO IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE, CONVENING OF
TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN ANGOLA UNDER OAU AUSPICES TO FORMULATE
POLITICAL SOLUTION TO CONFLICT, AND FORMATION OF PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY TO RESTORE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE
TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO SAKALA, UNITA CLAIMED
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00020 061222Z

SERIOUS CLASHES RECENTLY IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA BETWEEN UNITA AND

SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, WHICH ALLEGEDLY MISTOOK UNITA FORCES FOR SWAPO FREEDOM FIGHTERS. SAKALA ALSO REPORTED USE BY MPLA OF HELICOPTER-MOUNTED MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, PARTICULARLY ON MALANJE AND QUIBALLA FRONTS AGAINST UNITA OFFENSIVE THERE.

2. SUNDAY TIMES ALSO REPORTS COMMENTS BY THREE CUBANS CAPTURED BY UNITA STATING THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THEY WOULD BE FIGHTING FOREIGN SOLDIERS IN ANGOLA AND THAT IT WAS UNJUSTIFIED RISK FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE FOR CUBAN SOLDIERS THERE. CAPTURED CUBANS WERE REPORTED TO BE LT. CELSO CALDIS DOMINEQUE, PVT. BUSENTES RODRIQUEZ GARCIA, AND JOSE CURRUTI, A MECHANIC.

3. ANOTHER ARTICLE BY SAKALA IN TIMES JAN 3 REPORTED STATEMENT BY CAPTURED EX-KATANGESE MERCENARY, LT. ADOLPH PAPO, THAT OVER 6,000 FORMER KATANGESE MERCENARIES LIVING IN ANGOLA SINCE MID-1960 S WHO FEARED RETURN TO ZAIRE WERE FIGHTING FOR MPLA UNDER AGREEMENT REACHED BY THEIR LEADER, BRING. GEN MBUMBA NATANAZELI, WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM CONTINUE TO LIVE SAFELY IN MPLA-CONTROLLED ANGOLA.

4. DAILY MAIL DEC 31 CARRIED ARTICLE BY REPORTED BACK FROM UNITA-CONTROLLED ANGOLA WHICH DESCRIBED UNITA SITUATION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. IN UNITA S CAMP, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DETECT A CERTAIN LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AS WELL AS A RIGIDITY IN LIMITS AND COORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT ZONES AND FRONTS. BUT THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS INDIVIDUAL MORALE IS INDEED HIGH AND NEW RECRUITS COME EVERY DAY TO BARRACKS AND TRAINING CAMPS, WILLING TO GO INTO THE ARMY...JUST TO BE TURNED AWAY. UNITA S SECRETARY-GENERAL, N ZAU PUNA, TOLD ME THAT "WE HAVE MORE MEN THAN WE CAN USE, WE NEVER EVEN CONTEMPLATED CONSCRIPTION, AS MPLA HAS HAD IN ITS ZONE. WHAT WE NEED IS FOREIGN HELP IN WEAPONS, DIPLOMATIC FIELD AND FINANCE."
WILKOWSKI

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